

For Release: Thursday, February 26, 2015

15-321-ATL

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 • BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/southeast

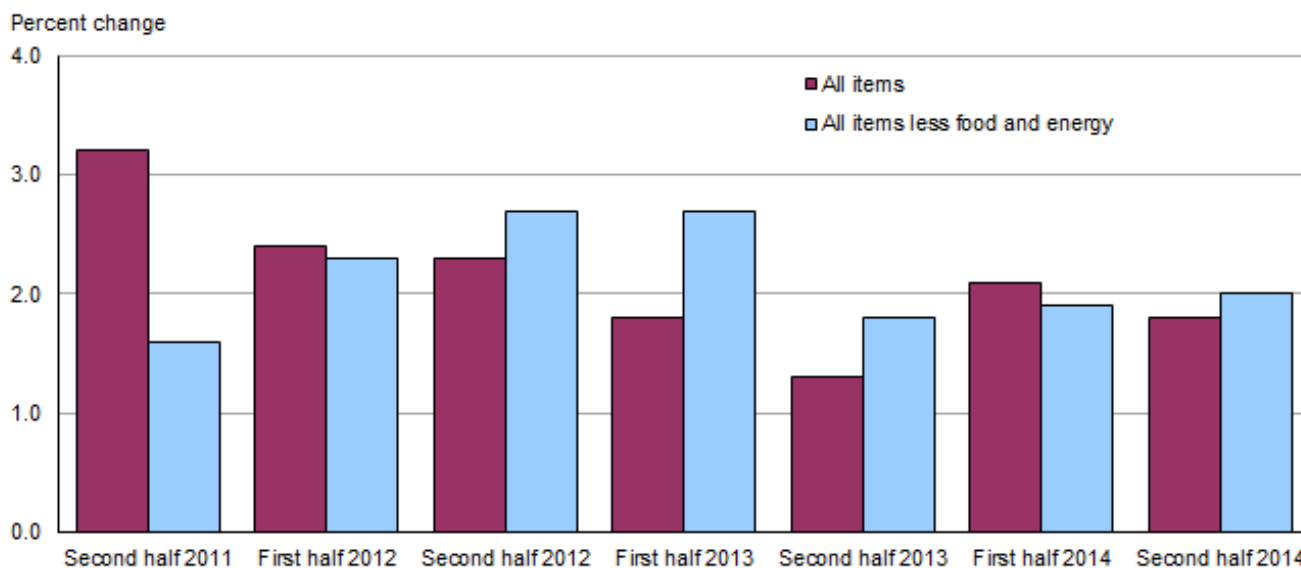
Media contact: (404) 893-4220

Consumer Price Index for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater-Second Half 2014

Local prices up 1.8 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater area advanced 1.8 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the all items less food and energy index was 2.0 percent higher compared to its second half 2013 level as price increases were noted for several categories, most notably shelter and medical care. Food prices rose 4.3 percent over the year while the index for energy decreased 2.9 percent. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Tampa, second half 2011–second half 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 4.3 percent since the second half of 2013, led by a 5.5-percent increase in prices for food at home. Prices for food away from home were up 1.3 percent over-the-year.

Energy

The energy index decreased 2.9 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, reflecting an 8.7 percent decline in prices for motor fuel. Prices for electricity increased 5.1 percent while prices for utility (piped) gas service rose 7.4 percent over-the-year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent since the second half of 2013. Shelter (4.1 percent) and medical care (5.1 percent), were among the components contributing to the increase.

The Consumer Price Index for February 2015 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar.

Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The **Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla.** metropolitan statistical area covered in this release is comprised of Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties in Florida.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL (1987=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2014 from-	
	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014
Expenditure category					
All Items	207.136	210.736	210.895	1.8	0.1
Food and beverages	207.762	211.074	216.457	4.2	2.6
Food	207.082	210.440	216.088	4.3	2.7
Food at home.....	210.627	214.643	222.219	5.5	3.5
Food away from home	203.879	204.484	206.460	1.3	1.0
Alcoholic beverages	204.405	206.829	208.083	1.8	0.6
Housing	191.617	195.497	198.052	3.4	1.3
Shelter	211.209	215.512	219.885	4.1	2.0
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	210.391	215.608	220.825	5.0	2.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ⁽¹⁾	223.070	226.613	231.208	3.6	2.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	223.070	226.613	231.208	3.6	2.0
Fuels and utilities.....	204.172	211.915	212.635	4.1	0.3
Household energy.....	165.469	173.911	173.942	5.1	0.0
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	162.595	170.945	171.260	5.3	0.2
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	160.159	168.162	168.299	5.1	0.1
Utility (pipd) gas service ⁽¹⁾	241.719	256.827	259.493	7.4	1.0
Household furnishings and operations	116.315	114.164	113.710	-2.2	-0.4
Apparel.....	162.552	162.642	163.726	0.7	0.7
Transportation	213.243	216.400	202.976	-4.8	-6.2
Private transportation	219.558	222.260	208.428	-5.1	-6.2
Motor fuel.....	369.415	383.267	337.335	-8.7	-12.0
Gasoline (all types)	361.883	375.432	330.039	-8.8	-12.1
Unleaded regular ⁽²⁾	358.436	371.954	325.693	-9.1	-12.4
Unleaded midgrade ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾	315.379	327.122	290.048	-8.0	-11.3
Unleaded premium ⁽²⁾	362.714	375.778	334.933	-7.7	-10.9
Medical Care	341.028	355.382	358.484	5.1	0.9
Recreation ⁽⁴⁾	123.295	124.026	124.912	1.3	0.7
Education and communication ⁽⁴⁾	137.271	138.079	139.104	1.3	0.7
Other goods and services	288.507	291.242	293.108	1.6	0.6
Commodity and service group					
All Items	207.136	210.736	210.895	1.8	0.1
Commodities	176.112	178.461	176.915	0.5	-0.9
Commodities less food & beverages.....	158.737	160.570	155.652	-1.9	-3.1
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	234.119	239.501	230.549	-1.5	-3.7
Durables	95.610	94.731	92.970	-2.8	-1.9

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL (1987=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2014 from-	
	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014
Services	234.946	239.626	241.242	2.7	0.7
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care.....	199.744	202.840	202.865	1.6	0.0
All items less shelter	206.594	209.674	208.252	0.8	-0.7
Commodities less food	161.615	163.488	158.719	-1.8	-2.9
Nondurables	219.417	223.682	222.363	1.3	-0.6
Nondurables less food	232.162	237.341	229.094	-1.3	-3.5
Services less rent of shelter.....	261.591	266.346	265.306	1.4	-0.4
Services less medical care services	223.778	227.908	229.595	2.6	0.7
Energy	242.805	253.288	235.781	-2.9	-6.9
All items less energy	203.750	206.772	208.497	2.3	0.8
All items less food and energy	203.362	206.324	207.331	2.0	0.5

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(3) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

NOTE: Data not seasonally adjusted.